



9th Ward E-News

From Minneapolis Council Member Gary Schiff

February 9, 2007

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Schiff calls hearings to address renters without heat

Minneapolis Council Member Gary Schiff has called for a special public hearing to look into tenant complaints about heat shutoffs and slow responses from city staff and landlords. On Wednesday, February 21st the Minneapolis City Council Public Safety & Regulatory Services Committee will hold a public hearing at [Powderhorn Park](#), 3400 15th Ave S.; starting at 7pm. Tenants are encouraged to testify and share their experiences with Council Members.

"No one should have to live a week without heat, and the landlords that bring constant complaints must face tougher consequences," Schiff said. The City hopes examples from tenants will help streamline its response to complaints and help draft new legislation to get tougher on landlords whose buildings bring repeat violations.



Corcoran resident John Stiles holds up part of the broken heater that left him and his wife without heat for a week. To learn more about his story, [click here](#).

City wins court ruling against airport noise

Hennepin County District Judge Stephen Aldrich ruled favorably January 25, supporting the City of Minneapolis' efforts to force the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) to follow through on noise protection commitments it made prior to the airport expansion. "The MAC made commitments to protect residents from airport noise pollution," Council Member Gary Schiff said. "They have not followed through with those commitments and now they are being held accountable."

Judge Aldrich's [order](#) involved summary judgment motions in the [case filed](#) by the Cities of Minneapolis, Richfield and Eagan, as well as the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority, which requires the MAC to comply with the state [Environmental Rights Act](#) and make good on its commitment to provide the full noise mitigation package to homes within the airport's 60 – 64 DNL (day/night noise level). "This court cannot allow the MAC to receive the benefits of a long fought over public bargain and then abandon its repeated commitments upon which so many people have relied," the order said. "To rule otherwise would approve a massive public 'bait and switch' on the homeowners and the affected cities."

Judge Aldrich rejected motions by MAC and Northwest Airlines to dismiss the Cities' claims that the MAC does have an obligation to protect right of "quietude" as outlined in the Environmental Rights Act. "The MAC has reneged on its commitment," the order said. "As such, the MAC is in violation of the standard it set in exchange for approval of the airport expansion. The order against the MAC and Northwest Airlines provides the Cities with the right to the noise insulation they sought and allows the portion of the Cities' lawsuit relating to the protection of quietude to go forward. The trial is expected to begin in mid-February.

The ruling is significant for 9th Ward homeowners, who will face increased noise in 2007 and 2008 due to a runway repair plan that will redirect 600 flights a day over Cedar Avenue South. The changes will happen in August and last through October. The city

attorney's office has been directed to look into whether the new landing path complies with an agreement between the city and the Airports Commission restricting air traffic on Runway 17. A previous agreement has not been honored by the MAC.

Join state legislators at Breakfast with Gary

State Senators and Representatives from the Ninth Ward will speak at February's Breakfast with Gary on Friday, February 23rd.

[Sen. Patricia Torres Ray](#), [Sen. Linda Berglin](#), [Rep. Jim Davnie](#), [Rep. Karen Clark](#), and [Rep. Neva Walker](#) will attend. "Health care, local government aid, and transportation funding and all be hot issues before the legislature this year as the new DFL majority shifts focus away from divisive social issues and attends to the needs of working Minnesotans," Council Member Gary Schiff said.



Rep. Jim Davnie, Rep. Neva Walker, Rep. Karen Clark, Sen. Linda Berglin, Sen. Patricia Torres Ray

Breakfast with Gary is a monthly meeting for 9th Ward constituents held from 7:30 to 9:00am the final Friday of the month at the Café of the Americas (3019 Minnehaha Avenue South). \$5 buys breakfast.

Janitors gain family healthcare in new contract



More than 4,200 janitors in the Twin Cities won affordable family health insurance, full-time work, and higher wages in a new tentative contract agreement announced this week. The tentative agreement comes after janitors worked for more than a month without a contract after talks broke down when employers refused to discuss affordable family health insurance. Council Member Gary Schiff signed a public letter in support of the janitors of SEIU Local 26 along with over 130 other elected officials, clergy and community leaders.

"This victory for janitors sparks hope for all working Minnesotans who are struggling to deal with the rising cost of health care," Javier Morillo, president of SEIU Local 26 said. "We need to keep up the fight to make sure that everyone in our state has access to quality, affordable health care for their families." Under the new contract agreement, full-time janitors will have the option of an affordable health plan available beginning in July of this year. By 2009, the cost to employees will be \$20 for single coverage and \$75 for family coverage. The contract also increases the number of full-time janitors so more workers are eligible for health insurance through their job.

Minneapolis Curfew Laws Keep Kids Safe

Hennepin County Ordinance establishes the time youth are to be at home on weekdays and weekends. "Residents should call 911 to help us keep kids safe," says Karen Notsch, Crime Prevention Specialist.

Curfews are set for youth ages 17 and under. Curfew hours for children under 12 years old are Sunday through Thursday home by 9:00 p.m. and Friday and Saturday home by 10:00 p.m. Children 12-14 years old Sunday through Thursday home by 10:00 p.m. and Friday and Saturday home by 11:00 p.m. Youth ages 15-17 must be home Sunday-Thursday by 11:00 p.m. and Friday-Saturday, by 12:00 a.m. Youth in public places or businesses after the above hours without a parent, guardian or other responsible adult will be given a ticket and brought to the Curfew/Truancy Center.

The Minneapolis Curfew and Truancy Center is funded by the City of Minneapolis and has been administered by the Minneapolis Urban League since it was formed in partnership with the Minneapolis Public Schools. It provides an alternative for youth who would otherwise be brought into police headquarters for minor violations.

